

**CITY OF MILPITAS
SENIOR ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Approved Minutes: Senior Advisory Commission
Date of Meeting: October 24, 2006
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Meeting Room

A. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE

Chairperson Weisgerber called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Mary Banick, William "Ed" Connor, Bal Daquigan, Barbara Ebright, Albert Wang, Denny Weisgerber and Joanne Wood

Commissioner Absent: Joyce Dovlet, Amanda Santos

Alternates Present: Florentino Menor, Bernice Wrinkle

Council Liaison: Debbie Giordano

Staff Present: Lynette Wilson, Recreation Program Coordinator
Jennifer Tagalog, Recreation Services Supervisor
Roseann Costabile, Nutrition Site Manager

C. SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Florentino Menor was seated for Joyce Dovlet. Bernice Wrinkle was seated for Amanda Santos

D. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councilmember Giordano requested her Council Report to be moved before New Business. MOTION: To adopt the Agenda of the October 24, 2006, Senior Advisory Commission. M/S: Wang/Banick. Ayes: Unanimous.

E. MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the August 22, 2006, Senior Advisory Commission meeting. M/S: Ebright/Daquigan. Ayes: Unanimous.

F. FINANCIAL REPORT

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog reported the updated Financial Report was included in the Commission Packet and reflected the period of August 1-September 30, 2006. The report reflected no purchases or revenue. The Commission's balance is \$2,435.34.

Motion to approve the Financial Report. M/S: Daquigan/Wood. Ayes: Unanimous.

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G. CITIZEN FORUM

None.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ CORRESPONDENCE

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog read the announcements listed on the Agenda, in addition, on behalf of the City Clerk, she informed Commissioners Daquigan, Santos, Dovlet and Wrinkle that their term was up in December, 2006. Should they wish to be reappointed, they should contact the City Clerk's office. She also mentioned that a few Commissioners still needed to renew their Senior Center Activity Card.

Police Chief Dennis Graham reported the department's crime prevention efforts have been successful. The thefts of laptop computers, purses and GPS items in cars have had dramatic decreases in the past three months. The areas targeted were shopping centers, McCarthy Ranch area, and places of business where people would be away from their cars for several hours. He also announced that his department would provide presentations at the Senior Center on Police Department issues.

Commissioners Ebright and Connor asked a few questions concerning GPS devices and Chief Graham answered them.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Senior Corps Companion Program

This item is a follow-up from the Commission's August 28, 2006, meeting. Recreation Services Supervisor Tagalog provided a review of the program and the information she received while doing additional research in pursuing this type of program in Milpitas, as requested at the previous meeting. Ms. Tagalog indicated she was informed by Tina Wong from San Jose Senior Companion Program, that only one Senior Corps Companion program is allowed per County, of which San Jose is already established. Options available to Milpitas are: 1) start a volunteer program (through its already established MVP program) similar to the Senior Corps Companion Program, or 2) Milpitas could partner with San Jose's program by providing funding (approximately \$4,000-\$4,500 per year per volunteer, which would fund one volunteer 20 hours a week to serve 1-2 clients, for a year).

Milpitas' Case Manager indicated that approximately 30-40 clients were referred to various organizations/individuals for assisting with house cleaning, grocery shopping, running errands, providing transportation and doing yard work and simple home repairs.

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog spoke with the City Attorney regarding the possibility of starting a program similar to Senior Corps Companion Program, and he indicated it would be possible to offer the volunteer opportunities/services to provide the before mentioned types of services, but suggested not offering services which involved

volunteers driving for errands or transporting seniors due to the liability issues which are not covered by the City's current policy. All volunteers and clients would need to sign an indemnification clause.

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog indicated that staff recommends a volunteer program through the Milpitas Volunteer Partners Program to do light chores, yard work and provide companionship to seniors in Milpitas. She asked the Commission for its input.

Commissioner Ebright asked if volunteers through the current City program would be able to do the requested duties, if they are ready to start it, and if the program would be free. Recreation Supervisor Tagalog responded that there would be no additional cost for the participants/volunteers and there is a large database to recruit volunteers.

Commissioner Daquigan questioned if the City would be able to apply for the grant. Recreation Supervisor Tagalog responded no because only one grant is awarded per county.

MOTION: Move ahead with staff recommendations to move ahead with the volunteer program through the Milpitas Volunteer Partners. M/S: Ebright/Wood. Unanimous.

2. BINGO Fundraising Opportunity

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog announced the Senior Center had its Bingo system unveiling in October and it was well attended with 40 people, and 50 people the following week.

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog reported a subcommittee was formed from a few Bingo players, a Commissioner, and staff. The Subcommittee decided to increase the minimum buy-in from \$2.00 to \$5.00, use a paper pack/dauber system, and game pack includes 6 cards per game/10 games per session, and offering an evening program (4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm). Recreation Supervisor Tagalog also suggested that the Senior Advisory Commission sponsor a food booth at the evening sessions if they were interested.

Chairperson Weisgerber asked the Commissioners if they would be interested in sponsoring the food booth. He also stated that if the Commission decided to do it, that all of the Commissioners would be required to work it at various times throughout the year.

The Commission decided in favor of sponsoring the food booth unanimously.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Civic Senior Center, Project 8176 Update

Gail Seeds, Project Manager for the new Senior Center, introduced herself and Janet Tam and Lauren Livingston of the architect team Noll and Tam who were selected to design the new project.

Janet Tam gave an overview of the data gathering/public input procedures that the team is in the process of doing, including getting the Commission's input on the project. Focus group meetings were already held with Recreation Services staff, participants at the current Senior Center, residents at Terrace Gardens, future seniors/active seniors at the Sports Center, and a community meeting (to be held that night).

Janet Tam and Lauren Livingston gave a presentation of the preliminary findings on information regarding the overall project schedule, Milpitas' demographics, needs previously identified, and trends in senior center designs and services.

Some of the findings are as follows:

- The senior population will double in the future, and will put more pressure on community programs.
- Milpitas is a culturally rich community and the building will need to serve all of them and try to bridge the gaps that exist.
- The 'new older adults' have a different age self-concept, retirement goals, social connections, and are more fitness and wellness conscious.
- Adults ages 55+ want a place for activities that promote health and wellness, lifelong learning opportunities, and outdoor connection for more outdoor recreation experiences, and a facility that promotes social interaction and more classrooms that meet their wide range of interests.
- Having a facility that is accessible, user friendly, programs that allow more cultural expressions, computers. A facility that creates appropriate spaces that can be very flexible, but allows for different activities to go on with appropriate lighting and noise separations.

Some areas that have been talked about for the new center are as follows:

- Social Lounge (social interaction, well lit, comfortable, possible reading area)
- Café (open all day, comfortable place for seating, indoor/outdoor seats, internet access)
- Community Room (stage, room dividers, dance floor, good lighting, movie or night performances)
- Caterers' Kitchen (resources for rentals and cooking classes)
- Ping Pong/Pool Table Room, and separate room for game tables.
- Visiting Services (offices for visiting Healthcare professionals, diagnostic testing and screening, wellness monitoring, and social work offices)
- Program Trends and Education (life enrichment classes, cooking, travel and language, money matters workshops, health and nutrition classes, and computer classes or computer area for internet access/scanning use.)

- Fitness & Wellness Center (wood floor studios, fitness room, exercise classes, cardio workouts, weights). Many seniors indicated they would not go to the Sports Center, but wanted their own space to work out at a senior center.

Some of the site opportunities available are the ability to link with the Community Center and outdoor spaces.

Some of the comments the team has heard at some of the meetings are that seniors would like to have more classes, music programs, and more trips that are longer/further away trips/educational and some that want additional local trips.

Commissioner Wrinkle indicated she would like the lunch program to be “cook on site” instead of the current “catered” lunch program.

Commissioner Connor asked the design team about their experience in designing senior centers, and recommended the team visit Santa Clara’s new senior center and Rossmore. He also indicated that parking would be a problem at the new site and that a better location for the center would be behind the old senior center across the railroad tracks.

Commissioner Ebright indicated that it would be a good idea for Commissioners to tour other senior centers. Supervisor Tagalog responded that it could be possible.

Janet Tam indicated with their experience, and that the site has already been chosen. However, that parking has already been identified as an issue. Chairperson Weisgerber asked if the team would talk to City Council about the alternate site location mentioned by Commissioner Connor. Ms. Tam indicated she had not heard of the alternate site. She added that the goal of the team was to set priorities so it could proceed with designing a successful senior center for the Milpitas community.

Commissioner Menor stated the project would benefit Milpitas. He also indicated that the needs of seniors change yearly and asked what assessment of senior needs was being used. The team indicated that they were working with staff, talking with the community, and working with the County on medical/age/healthcare needs.

Commissioner Menor also wanted to be able to accommodate the needs of homebound seniors. It was indicated that it would be beyond the scope of the building site. It would be more of a programming issue as opposed to physical space issues.

Commissioner Wood indicated she was concerned with parking limitations. Gail Seeds responded that they were starting on the planning process and would be going to City Council with options for the project development, which would include transportation needs analysis and traffic patterns.

Commissioner Ebright mentioned that there were many people at Terrace Gardens with walkers, and that there are dangers for them crossing the street to get to the new site. Ms. Tam responded that the team was aware of the dangers and would be targeting it in their project as a transportation issue.

2. December 2007 Senior Advisory Commission Meeting

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog informed the Commission that the Commission's December 2007 meeting would fall on December 25, which is a City holiday. She asked the Commission if it would like to cancel or reschedule the meeting.

Commissioner Ebright indicated she would like it rescheduled to the following month. The Commission decided to reschedule the December 25, 2007, meeting to January 22, 2008.

3. Flea Market – Fundraising Opportunity for Senior Advisory Commission

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog reminded the Commission of the discussion they had at their June 27, 2006, meeting regarding fundraiser opportunities where Commissioner Wrinkle suggested holding a Flea Market. Recreation Supervisor Tagalog informed the Commission of her findings on holding Flea Markets in Milpitas (an application to the Planning Division, a site plan and description with hours of operation and parking plan, getting approval from the Fire Department, approval from the City Council for the event along with their approval of event fees. Since it would be a City sponsored event, it would be covered under the City's insurance and exempt from a business license.

She added in her research she found the average vendor space fee was \$5-\$20 per space. Possible spaces in Milpitas were identified as Milpitas High School's parking lot and the Milpitas Sports Center parking lot.

Commissioner Ebright stated that if it was held at the Sports Center during the youth sports programs, it could create a lot of congestion in the area. Chairperson Weisgerber responded that it could also create a good draw of people going through the Flea Market.

Commissioner Wrinkle stated she thought that summer time would be good for the event.

Chairperson Weisgerber indicated he would like staff to pursue in finding possible dates for the event at the Sports Center.

4. 2006 Senior Center Holiday Dance & Party

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog updated the Commission on the upcoming Senior Center's Holiday Dance and Party that is scheduled for Sunday, December 10, 2006, 1:00-4:00 pm, at the Milpitas Community Center. In the past years, the Commission has assisted in offsetting the cost of the event by donating money, of which \$250.00 was donated last year. The Commission's current balance is \$2,435.34.

MOTION: Motion to donate \$250.00 towards offsetting the cost of the Holiday Dance and Party. M/S: Connor/Wrinkle. Unanimous.

5. Senior Center Recognition Certificates

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog informed the Commission that Sura Weiner (a longtime resident and senior center participant) had requested Mayor Esteves for some type of recognition for some longtime senior volunteers for their work with various groups and committees at the Senior Center, possibly at an upcoming Senior Center Birthday Lunch event. Mayor Esteves requested the Senior Advisory Commission discuss this item. The individuals are Joyce Dovlet, Joanne Wood, Art Swanson, Neola Swanson, and Mary Banick.

Commissioner Connor asked if Jim Burns would qualify for the recognition. It was indicated that he was already recognized for his work. Roseann Costabile stated that the volunteers listed were instrumental in starting up the Senior Nutrition Program and were on the ground level of the Senior Center. Commissioner Banick also mentioned that Sura Weiner was also instrumental in the beginning of many senior programs. Ms. Costabile responded that Sura Weiner and her husband were involved in the Sunnyhills area.

The Commission decided that the participants mentioned, in addition to Sura Weiner and other participants that staff may come up with, be recognized at an upcoming Senior Nutrition Birthday Lunch event.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

1. STAFF REPORTS

Recreation Services

Recreation Supervisor Tagalog highlighted the items listed on pages 2-3 of the agenda. She added that the Santa Clara County will hold a Flu Shot Clinic at the Senior Center on Wednesday, November 1, 2006, 8:30-11:30 am, and the fee is \$15.00 per person.

1.2 Senior Center Nutrition

In addition to the information included in the agenda, Nutrition Site Manager Roseann Costabile stated that the children from the KinderCare preschool would

be at the Senior Center for Trick-Or-Treating. She added that she completed the required Assessment Forms on the Nutrition Site participants for Milpitas.

2. LIAISON REPORTS

2.1 A City Council

Councilmember Giordano reported the City Council actions during its October meetings.

October 3, 2006:

- Petition from neighbors near Gill Park on noise concerns
- Approved governing policy and operating procedures for Milpitas Community Television
- Approved minor entryway signs for the City at Montague and Park Victoria Dr., South Main Street and Montague, North Milpitas Blvd. and Dixon Landing, and a Branding Strategy Committee.
- Approved recommendation from the Facilities Naming Subcommittee to request the county to include historically themed elements in the proposed Milpitas Valley Health Center to honor early medical professionals in Milpitas.
- Approved 12 Family Child Care Assistance Fund Grant requests
- Consideration of an ordinance regarding appointment of Planning Commissioners.

October 17, 2006:

- Appeal of Commission Commission's decision to deny a dance floor at King Crab Restaurant.
- Approved proposal for Commission Recognition event
- Introduced ordinance prohibiting amplification of sound at Gill Park.

Commissioner Ebright stated she would like to be able to watch Milpitas City Council meetings on television with out having cable. Councilmember Giordano said that people could watch the meetings on-line from their computer, or come down to City Hall and watch it on the monitors. Chairperson Weisgerber said it was not possible to have the City Council meetings on the non-cable stations.

Commissioner Connor stated he would like to have the public be able to call in from home comments during City Council meetings. Councilmember Giordano indicated that it might be possible in the future.

2.2 Council on Aging Advisory Commission

Chairperson Weisgerber reported he is now the Vice Chairperson to the Council on Aging's Advisory Committee and was appointed to the California Senior Assembly. In this role, he will be a part of working on proposals that will be taken

to the Legislature, such as reducing the cost of hearing aids and prescription drug costs. He added that the California Assembly picks up any of the 14 proposals the California Senior Assembly worked, the Council on Aging will be notified.

2.3 AARP

Commissioner Banick thanked everyone who attended the Sock Hop. There were approximately 80 door prizes. The revenue from the event will go towards a few luncheons.

Commissioner Connor announced that the Milpitas/Berryessa Chapter of AARP was in the process of dissolving due to a lack of interest in people participating in the meetings/desire to serve in the official positions. The group is in the process of dissolving its bank account. He indicated that there might be a group of people who are interested in forming a group similar to the AARP Chapter, but not under AARP due to the negative image many people have towards AARP.

2.4 Arts Commission

No report.

2.5 Recreation and Cultural Resources Commission

No report.

3. Future Agenda Items

Final Report from AARP (Ed Connor)

L. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm. The next meeting is scheduled December 19, 2006, at 1:30 pm, at the Milpitas City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynette Wilson, Commission Secretary